

## **DRI # 41 – Comcast NSTAR Hybrid Undersea Cable – OFFERS**

### **PLAN**

- This cable will contain both power and fiber optic cables and will be solely either in Vineyard Sound or underground until it reaches a manhole in the NSTAR right-of-way near Main Street and Squantum Avenue in Tisbury.
- The hybrid cable will terminate in manholes near the Sound's edge. Within those manholes the power and fiber optic cables will be separated and routed in different directions. No cables will be above ground north of the Main Street layout.
- The fiber optic cables will be less than 0.5 inches in diameter and are proposed to be routed on existing poles along Main Street to Comcast's facilities.
- The hybrid cable and electrical connections to the NSTAR manhole south of Main Street will be entirely underground and the above ground facilities will be within a fenced area on the NSTAR right-of-way and on distribution poles carrying overhead wires continuing to different parts of the island.
- NSTAR plans to rebuild the unused riser station for the proposed new service line. It will look similar to the two existing riser stations and will require up to two new wooden distribution poles with insulators, switching and other needed attachment equipment, and cables mounted on the distribution poles and fencing.
- The Proponent has selected a cable route that will avoid sensitive marine habitats, has selected installation methods (e.g., HDD, cable burial using a barge equipped with dynamic positioning system) that will avoid and minimize impacts to coastal and marine resources, and will employ Best Management Practices during the active construction period to prevent erosion or sedimentation and to minimize noise and light from the operation.

### **OFFERS**

#### **1. Cable Installation**

- 1.1. The Applicant shall employ Best Management Practices during the active construction period to prevent erosion or sedimentation and to minimize noise and light from the operation.
- 1.2. The Applicant shall perform a post-construction video survey of the marine cable route approximately four to six weeks after initial installation. This survey shall consist of a one-day reconnaissance-level survey consisting of side scan, bathymetry, and video transects over the cable alignment to determine if any visible evidence of the cable trenching or significant disturbance is still present. If any is found, a subsequent survey shall be conducted one year later that will consist of the same reconnaissance-level data collection.

#### **2. Power and Cable Distribution**

- 2.1. The Applicant shall make use of existing pole locations and route the new cables on these poles to the maximum extent practicable.

#### **3. Construction Season and Hours**

- 3.1. Project submarine cable construction shall begin in fall 2013 (to avoid interfering with the busy recreational season and potential impacts to avian and marine species) and shall extend no more than four months.

- 3.2. No digging or cutting shall begin until October 15, 2013 (after Columbus Day).
- 3.3. The HDD pit and drill rig shall be in place for the duration of the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) operation and pulling of conduit, for a period not exceed two months. Once complete and the conduit pulled, the rig shall be removed and a pre-cast manhole shall be set in the pit and the area backfilled.
- 3.4. Construction shall be conducted in accordance with Town of Tisbury regulations governing construction hours.
- 3.5. Comcast/NSTAR shall work with the Tisbury Police Department to determine the best approach to protect traffic during the construction phase.

#### **4. Communications**

- 4.1. A communications plan shall be developed to communicate the project scope, construction process, timetable, impacts, and contact telephone numbers to the West Chop Association and abutters prior to the beginning of construction and at major milestones in the process.

#### **5. Noise, Dust, Leaks**

- 5.1. If the Town of Tisbury determines that dust generation has become a problem, the area shall be watered to reduce dust generation.
- 5.2. If noise complaints are received, noise curtains shall be used to reduce noise beyond the work area.
- 5.3. All diesel-driven equipment shall be monitored for any fuel leakage. Absorbent cloth material or trays shall be used under such equipment to capture any fuel or lubricant leakage, and spill kits shall be retained at the equipment to rapidly remove any unexpected spills.
- 5.4. There shall be no generators or fuel storage tanks permanently installed at the site.

#### **6. Site Alteration, Landscaping, Restoration and Monitoring**

- 6.1. A Site Restoration and Landscape Plan shall be submitted to and be subject to the approval of the MVC Land Use Planning Committee. The Plan shall:
  - Be prepared in collaboration with the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and property owners abutting the distribution line right of way.
  - Provide for the removal of the fence surrounding the unused riser station and its replacement with a permanent new fence and vegetation to lessen or break up its visibility.
  - Ensure restoration or re-vegetation of disturbed land and vegetation between Main Street and the HDD site to its pre-construction state, or increase vegetative screening.
  - Provide for vegetative screening to visually break up the view of the riser station using native plantings compatible with the electric facilities on and near the right of way.
  - If any pitch pines, scrub oaks, or other native trees and shrubs must be cut in order to allow access to or room for the construction, (notably a few trees along the western side of the Squantum Avenue layout and a small area of scrub oak at the north end of the path), cut or mow this vegetation and allow it to re-sprout once the work has been done.
  - Provide for the natural re-vegetation of any trees and vegetation necessary to provide sufficient access to the work area,
  - Require that the site cleanup, landscaping, and restoration be completed to the satisfaction of the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Tisbury Conservation Commission. If the timing of construction precludes completing this landscaping and restoration before the cable is put into

operation, the Applicant shall put funds into escrow equal to the cost of this work, to be returned after the work is completed in the appropriate season.

- 6.2. The Applicant shall not impact the tree canopy of Main Street.
- 6.3. The existing unused riser station shall be upgraded to accommodate the Project.
- 6.4. Equipment shall access the job site via NSTAR's access road from the easement that shall be entered from Golf Road; the equipment shall not access the job site via Main Street. Cars and pickup-truck-sized vehicles may use Main Street when access from the NSTAR right-of-way is unavailable.
- 6.5. Along the access to the HDD site along the Squantum Avenue layout, clearing and cutting of vegetation shall be kept to a bare minimum.
- 6.6. Potential impacts to the Squantum Avenue layout shall be minimized by using timber or composite matting to protect the path, adjacent wetlands, and trees along the road and to reduce the chances of soil compaction, erosion and rutting.
- 6.7. Vegetation shall be trimmed to a width of no more than 12 feet to accommodate the drill rig and associated equipment.
- 6.8. Erosion/sedimentation controls shall be installed along the edge of wetlands where necessary, or as requested by the Tisbury Conservation Commission or the Martha's Vineyard Commission to protect them. (Note: the use of composite matting may not require installation of erosion controls due to the fact that no soils will be disturbed.)
- 6.9. A construction fence shall be installed to mark the limit of work.
- 6.10. The plan shall prohibit the use of any fill, other than the temporary timber or composite construction matting, as fill may contain the seeds of invasive plants and other weeds.
- 6.11. Comcast and NSTAR shall work closely with the Tisbury Conservation Commission and Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, on the preparation and implementation of a landscape management plan for this project.
- 6.12. The applicant shall procure the plants specified in the landscape plan and have them planted by a professional landscaper. The applicant shall maintain this vegetation on NSTAR property. For any plants on private property, upon the individual property owner formally granting permission to the applicant, the applicant shall provide the property owner a recommended schedule for maintenance and watering.

## **7. Construction Supervision**

- 7.1. NSTAR and Comcast shall employ an independent Environmental Field Supervisor (EFS) to ensure that all environmental conditions and requirements are adhered to.
- 7.2. The EFS shall be a professional environmental scientist knowledgeable about the project and the environmental conditions and regulations whose role will be to provide daily guidance to the construction contractors to ensure all environmental regulations and requirements, including the Order of Conditions from the Tisbury Conservation Commission and Martha's Vineyard Commission, are executed properly.
- 7.3. The EFS individual shall have stop-work authority should a non-compliance activity occur. The EFS will be in contact with the proponent's construction management.
- 7.4. The project shall comply with the conditions and requirements set for it through the MEPA process by state agencies including: Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, Division of Marine Fisheries, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.
- 7.5. The project shall comply with the requirements of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan.

**8. Security During Construction**

- 8.1. Construction materials shall be locked in containers, and vehicles shall be locked when construction is not in progress.
- 8.2. The HDD pit will be secured with temporary fencing to prevent entry.

**9. Drilling Materials**

- 9.1. Drill cuttings shall be vacuumed from the "pit" and filtered in a separating unit to reclaim the drill fluid from the cutting materials. The cutting materials shall be properly collected and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.
- 9.2. If any cuttings are to be disposed of on Martha's Vineyard, the location shall be proposed to and shall be subject to the approval of the MVC Land Use Planning Committee before drilling begins.
- 9.3. As the pilot hole approaches the targeted exit hole location, the contractor shall flush drilling fluids and cuttings from the bore hole with water, and shall use water in place of drilling fluid in the final stage of drilling.
- 9.4. Should any toxic materials be discovered during the drilling operation, the materials shall be analyzed and the proper federal and state agencies notified. The materials shall be collected and processed in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_